

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 10489 281505Z

43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 AID-20

DRC-01 /110 W

----- 110193

O R 281408Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1042

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 10489

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJECT: FORECAST OF DEC 31 KNESSET ELECTION RESULTS

1. AS OF NOW THE BEST ESTIMATE OF MY STAFF, AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH ISRAELI PARTY ACTIVISTS AND POLITICAL COMMENTATORS, AS TO HOW THE DECEMBER 31 KNESSET ELECTION WILL COME OUT IS AS FOLLOWS:

	PREDICTED SEATS	COMPOSITION PRESENT KNESSET
LABOR ALIGNMENT	49	57
LIKUD	39	31
NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY	10	12
INDEPENDENT LIBERALS	6	4
AGUDAT ISRAEL AND POALEI AGUDAT ISRAEL	6	6
ALIGNMENT-AFFILIATED ARAB LISTS	3	4

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 10489 281505Z

RAKAH 3 3

MOKED	1	1
MERI	1	1
OTHERS	2	1

2. DESPITE MY CONFIDENCE IN THE GOOD JUDGMENT AND ANALYTICAL ACUMEN OF MY STAFF, AND DESPITE MY NOTORIOUSLY INACCURATE PREDICTIONS AS TO THE OUTCOME OF ANY POLITICAL CONTEST IN WHICH I HAVE ENGAGED, MY OWN CONCLUSION IS THAT MRS MEIR WILL BE ABLE TO LEAD HER PARTY TO A SOMEWHAT STRONGER RESULT, PARTICULARLY ON THE BASIS OF THE GENERALLY POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE CREATED AT THE OPENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND BY DANAY'S STATEMENT THAT THE CHANCES OF ACHIEVING AN ISRAELI-EGYPTIANS AGREEMENT ON THE DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES ARE BETTER THAN EVEN (TEL AVIV 10418), I WOULD PREDICT LABOR ALIGNMENT WOULD GET 51 OR 52, NATIONAL RELIGIOUS 12, AND LIKUD 37.

3. ONE CAUTION IS THAT IF LIKUD DOES AS WELL AS PREDICTED IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY COULD WOO THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY TO THEIR SIDE, AND PERHAPS EVEN INDUCE DAYAN AND HIS FOLLOWERS TO BREAK AWAY FROM LABOR PARTY, AND LEAVE MRS MEIR IN THE MINORITY UNABLE TO LEAD, WHICH IN MY JUDGMENT WOULD BE A CATASTROPHE FROM THE US VIEWPOINT.

4. I AM AWARE OF COURSE THAT ELECTION FORECASTING IS A HAZARDOUS UNDERTAKING, AND THAT THIS ELECTION, MORE THAN ANY OTHER IN ISRAELI HISTORY, IS FRAUGHT WITH UNCERTAINTY. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF FACTORS WHICH ENCOURAGE MORE THAN THE USUAL DOSE OF CAUTION IN ENGAGING IN PREDICTIVE ANALYSIS, AMONG THEM: A) THE CONTROVERSY*OVER PREWAR AND WARTIME DECISIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT PROBABLY HAS SHAKEN THE USUALLY STABLE VOTING PATTERN OF THE ISRAELI PUBLIC: B) THE VOTER FOR THE FIRST TIME HAS THE OPTION OF VOTING FOR AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE LABOR PARTY (E.E. SINCE FORMATION OF LIKUD LAST SUMMER) WHICH, AT LEAST NUMERICALLY, COULD WIN AND TAKE OVER THE GOVERNMENT: C) THE VOTING PATTERN OF THE SOLDIERS, WHO REPRESENT ROUGHLY FIFTEEN PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE, IS EVEN MORE UNPREDICTABLE THAN THAT OF THE PUBLIC AT LARGE (IN BROAD TERMS, THE SOLDIERS HAVE TO ASSESS HOW THEIR VOTE MAY INFLUENCE PEACE PROSPECTS AND THEREFORE HOW

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 10489 281505Z

MUCH LONGER THEY WILL HAVE TO STAY ON ACTIVE DUTY AT THE FRONTS); D) THE NUMBER OF THOSE WHO WILL ABSTAIN OR CAST A BLANK BALLOT IN PROTEST IS UNPREDICTABLE BUT MAY WELL BE LARGE: E) THE NUMBER OF ABSTENTIONS WILL IN TURN INFLUENCE THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF VOTES NEEDED FOR A SINGLE SEAT (1 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES CAST) AND HENCE THE CHANCES FOR THE SMALL PARTIES; F) THE IMPACT OF THE FARILY NEW BADER-MFFER LAW, WHICH FAVORS THE TWO

MAIN COMPETITORS IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SO-CALLED
LEFTOVER VOTES (LESS THAN THE MINIMUM FOR ONE SEAT),
WILL BE TESTED FOR THE FIRST TIME.

5. WITH ALL THIS TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION, WE
REMAIN INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT THE ISRAELI INTEREST
IN ADVANCING THE PROSPECT OF A VIABLE PEACE SETTLEMENT,
IN CONJUNCTION WITH WHATEVER IS LEFT OF THE USUAL ISRAELI
VOTING BY HABIT, WILL ENABLE MRS MEIR AND HER COLLEAGUES
TO WIN A SUFFICIENTLY LARGE PLURALITY TO FORM AND LEAD
THE NEXT GOVERNMENT, AND HOPEFULLY TO DO SO WITHOUT
RESORT TO A NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT IN WHICH LIKUD WOULD
BE INCLUDED.

KEATING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION FORECASTS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TELAV10489
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973122/aaaaaaxf.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <16-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORECAST OF DEC 31 KNESSET ELECTION RESULTS
TAGS: PINT, IS, LIKUD PARTY, LABOR ALIGNMENT PARTY, NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY, (MEIR, GOLDA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005